

B.4659
H6
1675
36
A Sober

ANSVVER
TO AN
ADDRESS
OF THE

Grand Jurors,

(as said) of the City of

BRISTOL:

To the General Sessions of the Peace ;

Offered also to Consideration.

Printed in the Year, 1675.



2A (at back)

L25

The Publisher.

FOR my own Satisfaction, and of some others my Friends, I procur'd a Copy of these Papers, and reserv'd it by me for some time, nor had they now been published, but that I heard from Bristol, how the same Foreman and others the Grand Jurors, whose Address is here examin'd (such is the scarcity of persons in that City fit to serve the Design) are again summon'd; and that those of them, who are prevail'd with to serve, do now threaten not only to vindicate their former Actings, but to attempt something of an higher nature against the Government of the place and Magistrates, as well as Dissenters: whether thus may further irritate or allay their former Heats I cannot divine; yet may it not be amiss that the Collusion be detected; which if done, though not so fully as could be wish'd, I shall, I hope, deserve thy Pardon.

A Sober ANSWER to an Address of the Grand Jurors, &c.

Worthy Sir,

I Have lately met with something in Print, that calls it self *An Address of the Grand Jurors of the City of Bristol to the General Sessions of the Peace there assembled*; and the strangeness of the thing, and of what it promises in the Title-page (for I had not seen any thing of that kind, much less import, made publick before;) drew me on with others, our common Friends who were then accidentally together, to give it a perusal. And the more we read, the more ground of wonderment we saw at the odd kind of Humour it discover'd throughout; Some of the Company, whom you know to be a little more sanguine and facetious, and had dispos'd their thoughts to more pleasant Ideas, burst forth into a loud Laughter, and would have perswaded themselves and us, that the whole was a design of mirth, or a Comical Plot, only meant to render the Jurors, and together that August City (for it they would represent, and call themselves *the Grand Jurors for the body thereof*) not a little ridiculous: But that conceit was rejected, because of the *Allowance* with which at the foot of that page it is said to be *printed*. Others thereupon were pleased to entertain us with more serious discourse; and because it seems very solemnly *offered to consideration*, (how *humblly* I cannot say) they made bold to interpret it a matter of weight and moment; and some, pretending to a greater insight into contrivances of this nature, and an acquaintance with the posture of affairs in that Place, (though not subject to the *fears and jealousies* (the Jurors are made say) *that they are daily in*) presently reported it another Trojan Horse, big with mischief; being fram'd on purpose, and to be managed by a certain crafty *Sinon*, to pull down the City-Wall, and to disfranchise and deprive the Corporation of its Charter, and lay it level with the neighbouring Counties. To this, though I know it's the common talk of such who have more reason to enquire into, and understand, and be alarm'd

rum'd thereat, than have any of us, I shall say no more; only, we all admir'd how it became possible, in a place of such Trade, and that swarms with Dissenters, to cull out so many men, fit to be Jurors, who would not themselves be concern'd, and that deeply, in the overthrow; and whose nearest Relations would not be reach'd by the *execution of the Laws against Phanaticks*. As for *Papists*, that we believed a meer blind, added to amuse the world; for none of us had heard, that any one of that Tribe has been now prosecuted; nor are there many (as we have heard) in the City: And this gave us further occasion of admiring, by what Principles these Jurors were act'd; and what could prevail with men of any Brains, and influenc'd (as they say) by their *Oaths of Burgesses*, thus evidently to undermine their own Rights, and together violate that very Oath they pretend to regard: Surely these Phanaticks are a sad sort of people, of a very different complexion from what they appear in other parts of the Nation; that it's thus worth the while to subvert the Priviledges, and hazard the desolation of that flourishing City, that they also may be involved in the common Calamity. Whilst we were thus debating, and very uncertain how to understand it, an Expedient is thought on, whence some satisfaction is by all expected; and you must be requested to make some enquiry for us, what this Jury was? how qualified? how chosen? and whether it be usual? or that they really made any such Address? for that is doubted. And now you see the true Reason of all that trouble this Letter has, or shall further create you; for they knowing my acquaintance with you, and yours with the place; that you delight to inform your self of what occurs worth notice, and others of what you have observed or learnt, and that you had had a particular account, constantly transmitted, of what has therein been done or happened; they enjoy'd me in revenge of the trouble this Address had by my means given them, to give you a greater; and to sollicite you by Letter to vouchsafe us some account of the particulars above-mentioned, whereby you will oblige several of your Friends, but none more than, &c.

Honoured Sir,

Your Letter came safe to Hands, and brought with it the *Address*, or rather *Invective*, printed (as it says) *with Allowance*; wherein you are pleas'd to desire, (and your desires must with me

me have the force of a Command) to give an account of the Jurors, and their Qualifications, how chosen, and whether any such Address were presented at the Sessions. Sir, You know my occasions often call me to that City, and my general converse has enabled me, I must confess, to give you, as suppos'd, (at least with the Assistance of my Correspondents) some tolerable account of that Affair; which I must not therefore refuse, though in some particulars not so fully as you may expect. That something then of that nature, and I believe the very same, was presented, I have been credibly inform'd: But that it was done with the consent of all those, whose names are printed in the Rear thereof, is very much doubted; It being constantly averred, that more than one, and those the most considerable refuse to subscribe it, and of the others, that a great number never knew what were its Contents till read in Court. How this Jury was pack'd together, though there are some who tell me, there was foul play us'd; and that (if judged convenient) they are able to prove as much, and by whom I shall forbear to mention. As also what a bad character is usually given of the *Foreman*, and of those other of his Brethren who were of the Caball in this contrivance. Herein I must be enforced to beg your Excuse; and the rather, because I have met with some who stick not to assert, that this Invektive was not the proper Work of the Jurors themselves, but the *Bishop*, who was observ'd to expect it with some impatience on the *Bench*, to exult at its being read in Court, to give it a brisk *Encomium*, and with whose good Language it well accords to be more than privy thereunto; and that it was compos'd by a fain'd *Attorney*, and the prime Informer (next his Lordship, who if he will be one, must be the chief) whom you seem to imitate by your subtil *Sinon*; yet in conjunction, with two or three more forward

Of this see
the Pro-
script.

The first notice of that Title was from a Letter written by this Informer to a Valiant Captain and vehement Adversary to the Dissenters, and ordered to be communicated to others of the Gang, who are since some of the Jurors by the name of *True-Hearts*.

thence led them to compare it with the Letter mentioned in the Margin to one of his Intimates, and of the *Jurors* the most daring;

persons of the *Jurors*, who have distinguished themselves by the names of the *TRUE-HEARTS*. That pleonasm; *Routs, Riots, and breaches of the Kings peace*; which (though it signifies just nothing but matter of form) is usual with men of his Profession made him first suspected to be the Author, and

ring; which confirm'd them in that suspicion; and that further caused them to call to mind, that the leading men of the *Cabal* were all his especial Confidants; and that he was observed to be frequently with them, at their Tavern-Clubs, and at their Elbows at every turn, as if he had been their good or evil *Genius*; Or, as if that great wheel, like the Orbs above, could not move without this *Intelligence*. His men also, they saw, made a trade of transcribing and selling Copies, doubtless to their Masters advantage, which infers an acknowledged propriety: He was observed also when he gloried in the Feats that already were, or but expected to be done thereby, that he always used the word *We*, thereby including himself amongst the number of those who composed it; and he might very well have excluded all, who designedly subscribed it; for they who know them much better than I do, are of opinion, that if all their noddles had been jumbled together they could not have hammered out any one period of what is now printed; and which was thought rather a *Remonstrance* than *Presentment*, but must now forsooth be called an *Address*; nay, that if a little Catechised about it, these truly *TRUE-HEARTS* cannot to this day account for the *English* thereof: And yet beyond all this, there are other arguments to evince, that he was the undoubted Author; and let him have the Honour of this great *Archive*-ment;

This *Remonstrance* then, *Invective*, or what else they would have it called, being lodged with him, who was its composer, I may, I suppose, with less offence, presume to unravel and refute it; and this, I hope will be to as good purpose, and as satisfactory to you and others, as if I had given you a particular account, how well the *Favours* were qualified for the service, and what *Leger-de-main* was used in shuffling them together; and a task not altogether so unbecoming and unpleasant: In order whereunto I shall not undertake to transcribe and insert the whole; nor need I, it being already you know in print, and to be read separately when you please: And yet, because it is of that mischievous nature, that it deserves to be well and heedfully considered, I shall only lop off some little *excrefcencies*, neglect other bombast *tautologies*, and so contracting it into somewhat a narrower compass, (but not so as to omit any passage of weight, nay not a word willingly, that has an *Emphasis*) shall thence give it a more expedite dispatch. Nor shall I here detain you long in what he is pleased to report

gay,

gave the first motion to this notable enterprize; which he says was their *duty towards God, Zeal for the Church and the reformed Religion*; though some are apt to think he seldom names those sacred things, *Religion, Zeal, and Duty* to God unless in mockery; nor will they be depose he is now in earnest. They say he scoffs at their worship (in *Coffee-houses*, and in their *Meeting-houses*, and also in the *Pulpit*.) and he that scoffs at any if innocent as theirs is supposed, may be suspected of no *Religion*; and with the like indecencies they are bold to charge his other *TRUE-HEARTS, not a Barrel the better Herring*: But that's not all; they are also moved (if we will believe either him or them) by their *Loyalty and Obedience*; whereof no doubt they are as tender, as they are known to be in other matters, and he especially. *Conscience* (you know Sir) is an *uniform* thing, and I need not acquaint you, that he who does *any* duty out of a due sense thereof, is very careful that he neglect *none*; and that the same is true in avoiding Crimes: *And the peace* (he adds) *and prosperity of his Majesties Kingdoms*; *peace and prosperity* is much hazarded, it seems by real *Christianity*; which is what they endeavour unfeignedly to promote; and than which nothing conduces more to the well are of a *Nation*; nothing can lay greater obligations to *love and peace*: Which momentous duties how well pleasing they are to some ears, let the vexation given a *Minister*, the last *Fair*, for insisting thereon; and he a thorow *Conformist* be their witness. The *Sermons* I presume you may have seen for they are since printed; for which he was sufficiently baited and abused; nor was there any other cause assigned, but that his discourses did thwart with the *Bishops* projects; and who then may we conceive to be friends, and who enemies to *Love and Peace*? But there is another motive yet behind, which is the *Obligation of the Oaths, taken by them both as Jurors and freemen of the City*: Had he here spoken in his own name, it's known what *Conscience* he makes of an *Oath*; nor is it much better as it is now laid: the *Composer* and the *Subscribers* (the *TRUE-HEARTS* I mean, supposed of the *Cabal*) may very well here shake hands together, if it be but observed; that they have at once presented upon *Oath* (for though it be an *Address* in the Title, it's a *presentment* in the body of the sheet) the *Preachers, Auditors, and City*, and for what *Crimes*. The *Preachers* for their *persons*; that they are *Seducers, Impostors, Pests, Fire-brands*; which will be made appear notoriously

notoriously false, for their *Sermons*, That they make it their business to impose doctrines of Disobedience, which I wonder, those that were sober amongst them had not caused to be expunged, as both absurd, and an impudent falsehood: The *Auditors* they present, for displayall Antimonarchical and seditious sectaries; which is as true as any of the rest: And the City, That within it, to be reputed Loyal, begins to be accounted matter of scandal and reproach; nor can a more dangerous Reproach be cast thereon: Latet anguis in Herba, here lies mischief in the bottom: And that Schism, Sedition, and Faction, has the boldness (therein) to outface Authority (or the TRUE-HEARTS rather to outface all Truth:) Let me here turn aside and reason it a little with these worthy Gentlemen; Can you or any of you imagine, that either of the Oaths above-mentioned oblige you to accuse Ministers for preaching such Doctrines as you never heard them preach, nor no one else? and such as they will protest, both they and their Auditors, that they do from their hearts detest? you have forgot, I suspect, that you are upon your Oaths, in thus presenting. Sirs, I must be bold to tell you, that you cannot have any competent knowledge of what is here presented, but immediately by hearing them your selves, or else mediately by the Oaths of others; which if you had, ought you not to particularize the Doctrines, and to indite the particular Preachers for preaching these very Doctrines, lest you appear malicious, or be involv'd in the same guilt. And ought you not also, if you knew any such (and are indeed Loyal) whom you accuse for Disloyal, Antimonarchical and seditious, to have convicted the particular persons of their particular Crimes, that they might be brought to condign punishment? away with this trifling! And in what corner of the City is it, I pray, that to be reputed Loyal is matter of Scandal? and by whom so thought, or how proved? will any, or all of the little instances you at length add, give countenance to any of all this? and had you any better, why were they not produc'd? or at least to prove your other accusation, That Schism, and sedition, and Faction has got the boldness to outface Authority? for shame! can you hear all this repeated, and yet not blush? To proceed; on the pretences mentioned, and but pretences, it was, that they confidently crave leave to present, as usual, their sad apprehensions of the State of the City: Mighty humble, and modest! their sad apprehensions!

See this Presentment in the Postscript.

benfons! Alas for you, tender hearted Gentlemen! *As usual;* 'tis more then I know, that the *state* of the *City* is usually presented: But their *Intelligencer* its possible, thought the *Major* and *Aldermen* all asleep, or that their brains, as he has said, are lock'd up in a *box*; and he would feign, as it's said, have the keeping of the *Key*: But 'tis the *present state*; and that is warily expressed; for the next *Grand Jurors*, as wise and considerable men as any of the *TRUE-HEARTS*, the very next *Sessions*, found the state of the *City* in another posture; and yet all things continued in the same frame, as in *Epiphany*, unless the *Bishops* being at *London* has made the *Alteration*. This state also of the *City* is limited to what concerns his *Majesties peace*, and the *Government*, therein *Ecclesiastical and Civil*. As to that of *peace*, something has been already spoken, and more hereafter: As to the *Government* there are other methods, foreign (as I suppose) unto *Presentments* at *Sessions*, sufficient to secure the *Ecclesiastick* Interest; and the *Civil* little needs this extravagant care: The *Aldermen* doubtless, though particular disorders within the *Wards* may escape their notice, and deserve to be presented; yet, they have so much brains left in their *Heads*, as for their own sakes to secure the *publick Peace*, and the *Civil Government*. You have a long while (*Good Hearts!*) danc'd in a *Net*; but, (if I am not mis-informed) will find your selves at length miserably mistaken; for the *design* has taken *Air*; your little *intrigues* are discovered; and the great danger the *Magistrates* apprehend the *City* is in, and its *Government*, is known to arise from other *Springs*, and not from the *Meetings* of *Dissenters*. After the *Complement*, now scan'd, such as it is, our *TRUE-HEARTS*, or rather their *Intelligencer*, thinks himself privileged to let his tongue run *Riot*, and on account he will give of the true Reasons of those late *Divisions, Disturbances, Tumults, Riots, Riots, and breaches of the Kings peace*. Truth I see will out; for if any such be, they are confess'd to be lately sprung up; and if so, they owe their rise, in all probability, to something new; which can be no other, but the *Bishops* lately coming to that *City*, and this *Informers Church-warden-ship*, which is not found of a much ancients Date. But of all these he further says, *that they have raised just cause of fears in all Loyal and Interested Subjects: Fears and Jealousies* we read of in the *Title page*; but now the cause must be pretended just, lest the fear be concluded ridiculous: And they will

will both appear to be no better. But he is bold to appropriate them to *all his Majesties Loyal Subjects* ; as if there were not a *Loyalist* in the *City* but is of his exactly, and of the sentiment of his beloved *TRUE-HEARTS* ; that indeed were very sad ! But why *Interested* ? all *Loyal* and *Interested Subjects* ? are there no men of interest, but your selves ? It must be thus understood, all, whose interest it is to amuze the *City* with senseless fears ; that is, your pitifull *Club* : But what is it they pretend a dread of ? No less, if not prevented, and the *Offenders punished*, than the final ruin and desolation of the *City*, probably a new *Rebellion* : The *City* then, (and I am glad you say it) is in less danger of *Rebellion*,

than of *Desolation*. And what danger there is of *Desolation*, by the *convivence* here declaim'd against, may abundantly appear from these many stately *Fabricks* lately raised, both within and without the *Walls* ; and the rates at which these houses are let ; by that perpetual hurry, and crowd of *business* ;

and the throngs of *people*, that every where swarm ; with the abundance of *goods* drawn to and again, that render it troublesome to all, but dangerous to *Travellers*, without great care, to pass the *streets* ; nor can it be imagined, with any likelihood of *Reason*, what can provoke any into a *Rebellion* on a *Religious* pretext, who do already enjoy their *Consciences* ; and should there be any other *accidents*, whereby the folly and madness of the people may be hurried into a *Tumultuous* disorder, they may be still the same, were there not a *Dissenter* in the *Land*. But, as wise as this suggestion is, we have a saying forsooth, and a grave one, to give it some *Authority*, *Experience* shews, that impunity and *convivence* at *offenders*, encourage *Disobedience* ; which might however have been at this time forborn, lest it also countenance their proceedings who prosecute this *Informer* for a notorious *Offender* (and on the same ground as they say, *lest importunity incourage Disobedience*) and produce the particular *Crimes*, and doubt not but to be able to prove them to a *little* ; whereof, if he knew himself not guilty, he needed not those attempts to obtain a *Pardon* ; nor do I think some other *TRUE-HEARTS* would be found very innocent, were *Laws* against *Swearing* and *Debaucheries* put

if Religion appear to enforce any thing on the *Consciences* of men, though human *Laws* require the contrary---then half-witted men think that Religion is nothing else but a pretence to *Rebellion* ; and *Conscience* only an obstinate plea for *Disobedience* : Dr. *Stillings*. on *Lu.* 7. 35.

in effectual Execution. But a *connivence* at *Christians* in the matters of their *God*, wherein all mankind have ever challenged something of *Right*; and wherein, if there be a *Religion*, in some cases a *connivence* becomes certainly *due* (nor can there be a more plausible case, then where the *Worship* is not judg'd evil, antecedent to its being prohibited), does not give

If there be a Religion in the world there must be some inviolable rights of Divine Sovereignty acknowledged, which must not vary according to the Edicts and Laws of men. *Idem* on Lu. 7. 35.

Ἐπιστολὴ ἀπὸ τοῦ
ἱεροῦ ἱεροῦ
ἐστὶν ἡδε, every
mans consci-
ence is to him
a God, says an
Heathen; cit-
ed by Bishop
Sanderson.

the least encouragement to *disobey* the *Civil-Laws*; which are sufficiently able, without intrenching on the *Rights* of divine Sovereignty to secure the *peace* and *prosperity* of that flourishing *City*, and of the *Nation*; nay the same *tenderness* which renders people so scrupulously careful in their *Obedience* to *God* in *Spirituals*, will exact a like *Obedience* to the *Magistrate* in what is *Political* and *Civil*: And further, that very *experience* (you, Sir, do very well know) which they here appeal to, is plainly against them; for the very *persons* reflected on, some of whom are your particular acquaintance, make a greater *Conscience* of that *Obligation*, than does their *Adversary*, or any one else of his other *TRUE-HEARTS*. What are the particulars of this heavy *charge*, we are yet to expect and must be content so to do a while longer, it is already seen, in some sort, on what silly *suggestions* such as respect *Dissenters*, if any such be subjoyn'd, will be probably bottom'd; and yet against them are they principally levelled; or as it's express'd by the *TRUE-HEARTS* themselves, *The greatest number of the Indictments and Presentments* (but where to find the scroll I do not know) are against *Schismatical*, *Seditious*, and *disloyal Seducers*.

I am loath to enter upon a discourse of *Schism*, lest the *Brat* be laid at their *Doors*, who would think themselves strangely disparaged should it but presume to call them *Father*: This is agreed on, That he who is the real cause of *separation*, is also the real *Schisma-*

Quicumque invident bonis, ut quarant occasiones excludendi eos, aut degradandi; vel crimina sua sic defendere parati sunt ut etiam conventiculorum Congregationes, vel Ecclesie perturbationes cogitent excitare, jam Schismatici sunt. *Austin*, as cited by others.

Their urging subscription to their own Articles is but *lacessere & irritare morbos*

tick; and let every one concern'd, impartially examine his own *Breast*. That they are *seditious*, should have been prov'd. But it is no more than what *Tertullus* the *Informer* laid to the charge of *St. Paul*, then a *Dissenter* from the National worship: That he was a mover of

Sedition:

Sedition : It should also be proved that they are *Disloyal* ; for if it be enough to be accus'd , *Innocence* it self cannot be innocent ; it is well known who was calumniated an *Enemy to Caesar* ; nor can they honestly be called *Seducers* (much less *Impostors*) who constantly deliver in their *Sermons* , such *Doctrines* as disagree not with the *Apostles Creed* , nor yet with the fundamental *Articles of the Church of England* .

The Heads of these Seducers , no better (if the **TRUE HEARTS** say truth) than *Firebrands* , *Pests* , *Principal Disturbers* , and *breakers of the Kings Peace* (when as all know they would have been quiet with all their hearts) are certain *strangers* (they say) *pretending to be Ministers* , but never , they believe , in *Holy Orders* : Is it so soon forgotten when they profer'd to defend their *Call* to the *Ministry* , and to whom ? it was at that very time when they were apprehended , and to no less a man than to the *Bishop* himself , and in open *Tolsey* , and that from the *Scriptures* , *Fathers* , *Schoolmen* , *Bishops* , and other *Divines* , the *Genuine Sons of the Church of England* , such who have been as zealous to uphold her *Doctrine* , as have been * others to undermine those very *Articles* to which they have *subscribed* : But these poor men who are here design'd , and whom some are content to *Degrade* , though they together subvert all other the *Reformed Churches* , were safe enough now from *Disturbing* ; for they were , at this time , confined to a noisom *Prison* ; and one , about the same time , quietly laid in his silent *Grave* , where the *wicked cease from troubling* , and where the *weary be at rest* ; where the *Prisoners rest together* , and bear not the voice of the *Oppressor* : But Mr. *Gifford* surely , might have been remembered by a very good *Token* , is a *Citizen* born and bred , and his *Father* now living

Ecclesie , which otherwise would spend and exercise themselves : Lord Bacon , *Resuscitatio* . part 1 . p. 138 .

Most of this is proved in a little Book of Dr. *Bernards* about *Bishop Usher's Judgment* , which may be consulted , and by others , the whole ; See Mr. *Baxters Christian Concord* .

*Vide *Sherlocismus enervatus* , and Dr. *Tully's Book* , *Justificatio Paulina* , and *Ferguson* against *Sherlock* .

This *Archbishop Eboracraft* , no friend to *Puritans* , was aware of ; for when it was questioned , if the *Scottish Ministers* to be made *Bishops* should be ordained , because only ordained by *Presbyters* , he maintain'd it was not needful , and the other *Bishops* acquiesc'd therein .

and bear not the voice of

Him this *Informer* swore he heard preach at such a place , at such a time ; and when he after looked on the man , and was advised to be careful , repeated

the same Oath in open *Tolerance*; where the contrary was made appear, and Mr. Gifford acquitted.

in the City; nor are the others, as is affirmed, lately settled, but have lived therein for several years: Can we now think Sir, that this is stuff fit to be cram'd into an *Invective*, and that to be presented upon *Oath*? I am afraid I have wearied you with these little *Reflections*, and so obvious, upon such lamentable *fooleries*; which however, because pernicious, and some have thought fit to be *publish'd*, you will excuse me if I further *expose*: Of the *Ministers* thus stigmatiz'd, who you know deserve another *Character*, it's next asserted, but how maliciously and falsely is too notorious to need a *Refutation*, That *they have made it their business to impose Doctrines of Disobedience*: when no one instance is given, nor can be of any such *Doctrine*, or occasional *passage*, that can be wrested to such a sense, in any one of all their *Discourses* (this was before mentioned, but could not be here omitted in its proper place.) As also its added, *to form the people into Parties and Factions*: when its well known in that City, and I think you have heard as much, that the *Congregations* were settled before those, not born therein, were sent for, and invited to be their several *Pastors*: But beyond all this, its easie (you know) to be demonstrated, that persons of divers *Opinions* and modes of *Worship*, may have all the same interest with regard to the *Publick*; and wise *States-men* have always understood how to balance these little *Diversities*; and as to many *wheels* in a *Watch*, though they run several ways, make them all subservient to the ends of *Government*: but the *Charge* is, They not only form the people into *Parties*, but *seduce them also from their due Allegiance*. To this I shall only give my Lord *Bacons* remark, who we believe was too great a man, too great to be despised, or his *Authority* slighted, and it's spoken in answer to an *accusation* exactly the same, that is now before us: *They have charged them*, he saith, (that is, *Dissenters* in those days) *as if they denied Tribute to Caesar, and withdrawn from the Civil Magistrate the Obedience which they ever perform'd and taught*; the plain practice of these our TRUE-HEARTS. *Non ovum ovo similis*; and the same Reply is sufficient, They ever performed, and taught the payment of *Tribute* unto *Caesar*, and obedience to the *Civil Magistrate*, which is, I think their *due Allegiance*.

That abundance of people frequent these *Meetings*, is well known

known; and the very complaint of those of *old*, who would have stir'd up the Supream Magistrate to a persecution of the *Orthodox Christians*, on that very *Account*: But, that these people, or a

οὗτοι πάντας Σπουδαστας ἀφ' ἡμῶν,
ὅλιγοι λοιπὸν ἀπολαύθημεν ἀρχῇ δ' ἰσ-
κην, as the Father complains of the com-
plaint of others: *Atb. p. 815.*

considerable number of them, would go to the *publick*, were their *Preachers* removed, is much to be doubted; and upon very good *Reasons*: nor has the *event* answered the expectation of some therein; and therefore it is a *boldness* to assert, *that they withdraw people from the Service of God by Law established*: Nor is the next of any better account: That *they seduce them to substract from the due maintenance of the lawful Ministers*; for they instruct all to pay their *Dues*, *Tribute* to whom *Tribute* (as was now said) and *custome* to whom *custome* is *due*. Besides, the prime *Contriver* of these fictions is able to instruct the *Parsons* (who now ought to be all his *Clients*) how by *Law* to recover what is *legally due*; and what need would there then have been to have turned *Informers* to have bettered his *Employment*? And yet some think, that the very *Meeters* themselves are more liberal to the *publick Ministry*, than is *he* who so passionately complains, or any the most zealous of his other *TRUE-HEARTS*: But, that any one *Dissenter* (of those who are now *Prosecuted*) has been ever heard, to call the *Publick Worship Antichristian*, and the *Ministers Dogs*, needs better *Authority* than their bare *assertion*, before it will deserve to be believed: that it is a piece of *civility*, wherein they are content that the *Bishop* should surpass them, who is *old excellent* at giving good language, and favour'd Mr. *Thomson* with that very *Title*, and gravely added, he *deserved* to stretch an *Halster*; a very proper way of stopping the mouths of such *gain-sayers*, as care not to be coped with by other *Arguments*: That they *pray with*, and *preach* to their several *Congregations*, if not imprisoned or otherwise prevented, all know; but that *they take upon them Authority* so to do, is constantly deni'd; and what (as I said) they offer'd to have clear'd; for they do believe, and asserted themselves the *Ministers of Christ*; But his *Lordship* was deaf on that *Ear*, and these *Gentlemen* on both, or they must needs have known it: But none so deaf as those, who judg it their *concern* not to hear. It is also once more desired by them that the *disloyal Antimonarchical Scillaries* thereby *increased* may be produced, and proceeded against according to *Law*: they must expect

expect no mercy, knew the *TRUE HEASTS* where to fasten; and that they fasten no where, is a sufficient *Argument* they know not where; they wisely here (and I commend their *policy*) conceal themselves under *generals*, *Latet dolus in universalibus*. And there is another saying; *Fortiter calumniare & aliquid herebit*; throw a deal of *dirt*, and some will stick, but more I believe to their own *fingers*: But a no-less fallhood than the now-mentioned, is that which follows; That *they inveigle the ill-principled, and those of the younger sort, unto a contempt of Laws*, much less of the *Civil, and of the Government and Magistracy of the City*: for there are not better, and more obedient *Children and Servants*, and *Apprentices* in the *Corporation*, than are their *Auditors*; and they that are such (you very well know *Sir*) are likely also to prove the best *Citizens*, and the best *Subjects*. They have moreover still appeared (as you may have heard) according to *Summons in person*, or by their *Proctor*, in the *Ecclesiastical*; and by

He hardly missed a day, but was ever on the *Tolsey* with the *Justices*, and seated himself next the *Mayor*; where he was very liberal of his threats; he began with a *Councillor at Law*, whom he threatned for pleading the *Kings Licenses*, before recal'd; and afterwards inveigh'd against in his *Sermon* at the *Colledg*, as one who would plead the *Divels* cause for a piece of money: He abus'd and threatned the *Town-Clerk* for not speaking enough; others for speaking too much; the *Mayor* himself did not escape his check for not being tender enough of his own *Officers*, nor the *Burgesses* for the *City* for not allowing his *Secretary* to interrupt them in dispensing *Justice*: But of all others, he fell most foul on an *Attorney* that pleaded for his *Clients*, and at one sitting call'd him impudent pestiferous fellow, *Knave*, *scurvy Knave*, said, he would be hang'd, deserv'd to be well cudgell'd, and to have his bones broke; this and more can be testified upon Oath.

therein. But it's no less
subjoyned:

themselves, or *Counsel*, in the *civil Courts*; and that though they were sure the *Bishop* would be there to brow-beat and revile them, and the *Lawyers*, who durst but mutter a word in their *Clients* behalf, whereof I could acquaint you with many pleasant *Relations*; and such as have by the *Bench* been thence ordered to *Prison*, have quietly gone thither, *Preachers* and *People*, without any *reluctancy* or *regret*; and some, that they might be sure to avoid that *Reproach*, at the sole command of this *Informer*: But by what *Law*, I would here ask him, who pretends such a regard to the *Laws*, were such imprisoned? or a *Copy* deni'd the *Ministers* of the *Mittimus* whereby they were committed? complaint was hereof made at the *Kings-Bench-Bar*; and it was confessed, that they had been wrong'd, strange than any of this which is next

That if a Restraint be not put upon these their proceedings, it may justly be fear'd (we shall never have an end with these just fears) by the sad experience of the late troublesome times, the Peace and Safety of the City, a total subversion of present Establishments in Church and State will inevitably ensue; than which nothing can be suggested that is more malicious, unless that raking into the Ashes of the Dead, whose corps it's the nature of some creatures to nuzzle out of their Graves, a Barbarity here only intimated, as beneath a notice in its proper place: But I judg it a far easier task to defend, and you possibly may be much of the same mind; that the miseries which hath infested most parts of Christendom, since Christianity hath been sheltered under the secular Powers, have been occasioned by such pick-thank exasperating persons, and their tempestuous proceedings, enough to hurricane the World into a confusion, than it would be for the wisest of the TRUE HEARTS ever to prove, that the not-putting a restraint upon people in the worship of God, did beget the Distractions, Troubles, and grievous calamities of the late cruel and unnatural Wars. Let them shew if they can, where ever an Indulgence drove people into a commotion, or how it's probable it should, or indeed possible: Yet this they must, or these Suggestions are a Vile impertinence. But this minds me of a caution given by the Best of Princes King Charles the first, to our most gracious Sovereign, who now Reigns; which I hope it will be no prophaneation to insert into this little paper, since I profess to do it with all due reverence and veneration: **Beware of exasperating any Factions, by the crossness and asperity of some mens passions, humours, or private opinions, grounded only upon the Differences in lesser matters which are but the skirts and Suburbs of Religion:** A Sentence to be ingraven in Gold,

Morosa moris retentio res turbulenta est aequae novitas.

A contentious retaining of custom is a turbulent thing as well as Innovation, *Refficitatio. p. 137.*

You may now expect, that after all these lamentable hideous outcries, enough to frighten out of the best wits they had, as sage and sober as are some of the Furors, who are not able to spell their own names; (and some you know will scare themselves with the very noises, they made to terrifie others;) that some pregnant instances should have been produc'd, and full to the purpose, such as should have so confirm'd this great Charge as to

have left it beyond all *Dispute*; What? in a *Presentment* to be imposed upon a *Grand-Jury* of *Bristol*; and by them to be tendered to the *Burgesſes* for the *City*, that it may be reported in the high *Court of Parliament*; and after all this to be sent to the *Preſs*, and made publick, that it may not miſs of its deſired *ends*. The *compoſer* thereof is very well known, and that (what-ever be his other *TRUE-HEARTS*) he himſelf is a crafty *Crowder*; who would not keep all this noiſe a ſcraping and tuning (ſuch as might tire the *Grand-Turk* himſelf, as it is ſtoried of ſome *Engliſh-minſtrels*) but that he will be ſure to make *Muſick* of it at laſt: And what I pray, after all theſe throws of his *Teeming Brain* is at length delivered by the *Midwifery* of the *Jurors* into the arms of the *Bench*, to be adopted by the *Burgesſes* (a comely *Brat* no doubt, whereof they are thus fond). All this *Mountain* has brought forth a *Mole*, *Nafectur ridiculus mus*; Where ſhall we find a competent *proof*, ſufficient to confirm theſe bold *Aſſertions*? The enſuing words ſeem to imply, that if we knew but where; (but ſuch has been my *incogitancy*, that it eſcaped an *obſervation*) what has been hitherto ſuggeſted is already proved; and yet further to gratify us, theſe *civil Gentlemen* will vouchſafe it a fuller Confirmation; and therefore ſay, *which is more evident*, &c. Which? what which? all I conceive before aſſerted; for if this proves not *all* it will be hard to find what ſhall prove the *Reſt*; *is more evident*, that word *more* ſuppoſes it in a *meaſure* ſo already; that is, becauſe they forſooth have been pleaſed to ſay it; ſuch is their *Authority* and known *Veracity*! But by what other proofs ſhall it be made *more evident*? By their ſhutting the doors of a *Conventicle* in the *Caſtle*, againſt ſeveral *Juſtices of the Peace* of this *City*, who went thither in perſon with the *Lord Biſhop* to diſperſe it, and denying them entrance till they had called *Conſtables* to break the doors: Friend! methinks you, who are ſaid to have been upon the place as was alſo the *Valiant Captain*, (who preſented a *Piſtol* to an ancient *Merchants* Breſt, and ſwore he would ſhoot him, when no way provoked, the *Fore-man* of the *TRUE HEARTS*, though not of the *Jury*;) you ſhould have told your *Tales* a little truer: Do you know, that there were more doors ſhut than one? or that they deni'd entrance? or to the *Juſtices*? or that he who ſhut the door ſaw the *Juſtices*, before it was ſhut? (he ſays the contrary;) or that they would not have opened the door had not the *Conſtables* been called to break it open? (that's inſinuated;)

or, that they who open'd it knew the *Constables* were so called ? And which I pray of the *Justices* ever complain'd of any affront offer'd them ? And after all this do you indeed think it an heinous *Crime*, to shut a *Meeting-door*, thereby to prevent a *Ministers* being taken, who had before told them, and whom they verily believed (should he be confin'd) would die in *Prison*, and it so hapned ; and then when required to open it again, (lest they should be judg'd to affront *Authority*) and thereby to frustrate their own *purposes*, and yield him up a *Sacrifice* to the rage of his *Adversaries* ? others will think you are hardly put to it, when you select'd out this, to place it in the *Van* of your particular *Enormities* : The next is, *by their raising Tumults, and Riots in the principal streets of the City, on every light occasion* : This indeed were something if particularly proved ; but we are still left in the dark, for though the *streets* be nam'd to be some of the *principal*, yet the time when is not assign'd ; and therefore this *charge* might have been fairly slighted : But because it is so black and foul, and what has been the great *complaint*, I have thought my self oblig'd to sift out, if possible, what they intend hereby : It must certainly then be meant (as they who live on the *place* have inform'd me) of a *concourse* of the people on the *Tolsey* when the *Bishop* was pleas'd first to bring with him some of the meanest of his *Clergy*, both for *abilities* and *interest*, (with the *composer* also of this doubtly *Address*) to inform against the *Dissenters* ; (the more judicious learned and able *Divines*, (for which his *Lordship* in a *Visitation*-speech severely lash'd them,) peremptorily refusing that hated *Imploy*. But it was the alone strangeness of the thing, to see *Informers*, and these of the *Clergy*, headed by the *Bishop*, (who to encourage others, then assumes the Title of *Informers*, and after to lessen the reproach bestows the same on the blessed *Angel*,) that drew together a number of people of all *conditions* and *opinions* from all the *Quarters* of that populous *City*. Which the *Mayor* and *Justices* saw, as well as the *Bishop* or the *TRUEH-EARTS*, and had as much *reason* to be concern'd at the suspicion of a *Riot* as have either of them ; but they better knew the peaceable *disposition* of the *people*, and satisfi'd his *Lordship*, (who was not a little startled) that he had no *reason* to be compos'd thereat ; for all things are, and would be *quiet* ; and so it hapned, for they all dispers'd, when the *In-*

In a Sermon at the Colledg from these words :- Behold I bring you glad tidings.

formations had been taken ; and returned quietly to their several homes : Or, of some other *Concourse*, at the same place, on the like occasion ; but these, not only the *Mayor* and other *Aldermen*, but the *Burgess*, to whom they are pleas'd to apply themselves in the close of this *Address*, (though he be since fallen into some *disgrace* with them, and the *Bishop*) have ever excus'd, as being perfectly *innocent* ; and also told the *Bishop*, in the peoples hearing, when he would have had either the *doors* shut or them driven out ; that it was both *Customary*, and their *right* to have open *Justice* done ; and that whoso would, might come, and hear it, without *Controul* ; for which, and reprehending the *insolence* of his *Lordships Secretary*, who durst presumptuously interpose, advise, and direct the *Magistrates*, when on the *Bench*, he has (as is conceived) since incur'd their fore *displeasure*.

Or Lastly, Of a *company* of people the *Bishop* had espi'd before the *Mayors doors*, that very day *Mr. Thompson* was apprehended ; and about the same time that he was worried within, by his *Lordship* and his other *Informers*, besides which *Concourse*, and the above-mentioned, there is no shadow of a *pretence*, that I can yet discover, for this lewd *reproach* ; and which indeed was no other but a few *Boys*, or some few other as inconsiderable people, who stood only gazing on the other side of the *Street*. These his *Lordship* was pleas'd with much earnestness to solicit the *Mayor*, that he would go down in *Person* and dislodge ; which he accordingly did, and at his return acquainted him, what sort of *persons* they were, and that there was nothing of a *Disorder*, much less a *Tumult* or *Riot*, to be suspected in the *Case*. And now Sir I hope (as did the *Magistrates* of that *City* all along their reverend *Bishop*,) I have fully satisfied you as to this matter ; and that, if this be the naked truth, as there are who will be depos'd it is, his *Lordships* suspicions were no other than such, and the *TRUE-HEARTS* *Presentment* thus far *Ridiculous*. But let us see what they have yet to offer : By their pursuing (as it follows) with *staves* and *assaulting*, and throwing stones at divers of those who have gone to suppress *Conventicles*, and to convict the *Meeters*. Indeed ! that people commonly walk with *Canes*, or *Staves* in their hands (the *TRUE-HEARTS* as well as others) is readily acknowledged ; it being a general *Custom* amongst them ; nor must I adventure to deny, but that some have pursued, assaulted, and thrown stones at the

Informers;

Informers ; though I am very confidently assured of, and do verily believe the contrary ; because I know not , but that there may be others of this *Gentleman's* acquaintance, who can swallow an *Oath* as glibly as himself : But I never yet heard of any who were brought before the *Justices*, for either of those *Crimes*, though some have been (as I am told) continually before them, for much lesser *matters* . Besides, *Sir*, you are not ignorant, how they generally believe, that they could not gratify this *Informers* and his *associates* more (for which they have but little *reason*) than by being guilty of such a *disorder* : *Hoc Ithacus vellet*. They have always fear'd lest some should be suborn'd to make a *bustle* in the *Streets*, that they might have wherewith to accuse *Dissenters*, and together justify their own *charge* ; like a sort of slippery *blades*, who pick *Quarrels* amongst themselves, or with others, to gain an opportunity of picking your *Pockets*. Who those *many sober and Loyal* people are, who as they here add, are in great terror and dread of *sudden Insurrections*, I cannot guess : This I can assure you, from good hands, that when the *Compiler* hereof would since have tempted some of the *Mayors Officers* to depose this, or something of this nature, upon *Oath* ; they all refused, and he at that time was content to swear alone with these words : *If you will not give me the book I will swear it my self* : Bravely resolv'd !

But my good *Friend* ! (for I shall here particularly speak to this *Informers* ;) Did you really fear an *Insurrection* , Were it *prudence* for you to thrust your self into the *Meetings* amongst thousands, (You your self imply that they appear formidable for their numbers ;) some-times with no other *Guard*, but that of your own *Innocence*, and your as innocent *Servant*, honest *Thomas* ? constantly to vex, and disturb them in their *Devotions* to compell them to give their names, (that they might be convicted) together with their *calings* and *habitations* ? to scoff and taunt at them, and their *Worship* ? (which few can bear) to threaten to knock them over-

He scarce misses a Meeting, where sometimes finding them singing he has gone aside , and then returned, and so proceeded until they have been forc'd to depart ; he has caused the names of hundreds to be taken, about 45 were convicted *Mar. 14.* and about 54 *Mar. 27.* One was committed to *Bridewell* by him, (*Mar. 21. 74.*) though he had told his own, for not telling also his *Masters* name ; His scoffs at the *Women* I shall not repeat, &c. He bid his *Attendants* (*Mar. 14. 74.*) carry away a sufficient man upon a *stang*. He did (thus) menace to knock & cut the *Ears* of a young man, *Mar. 21. 74.* He commanded the *Mayors Sergeant* to beat the *Mæe* in pieces about their *Ears*, *Mar. 31. 75.* and owned before the *Mayor*, that he bid him knock it about their *Ears*, and justified it : He pull'd & hal'd away the *Chairs* and *Stools* from

the

Aged, and others to make them fall, and hurl'd them away. *Mar. 14. 47.* One, a female was thrown down the Stairs, *Feb. 21. 74.* and bruised, This one pleaded as the Reason, why he went not away as soon as commanded in the Kings Name, he was afraid having seen him pull, beat, strike and throw down several, so that had they not been saved by others, they had broken their Necks, or a Limb; this would have been proved by the Oaths of many: He beats and kicks whom he found on the Stairs. *March 28.* Another was thrust, struck and abused. *Feb. 21.* An Aged man was drag'd out and committed to *Bridewell*, by his command without shewing a Warrant, or bringing him before a Justice. *Mar. 14.* and two others then imprisoned, in the same manner, one of whom was released by a Note to the Keeper, under only his hand; and a fourth likewise the same day from another Meeting: and another *Febr. 28.* though he told his name, not brought before a Justice, was carried by him and his fellow to *Newgate*, and received by the Keeper: And yet after all this no one instance of any Resistance can be produc'd.

do thus for your Ears (as bad a title as you have unto them) but that you are encouraged by their great *patience*, and well assured, both from their *Principles* and *Practices*, that they dare not but be peaceable and submissive to *Authority*: we have had something to do with these little *pretences*, or imaginary *dreads*; which in compliance with your crafty *Designs* you are pleas'd to suggest: But I shall tell you what is a *real Truth*, and you may make the best of it you are able; there are several *women* who have miscarried, lost their burthens, and were likely to lose their *lives* by the *Violences* apprehended or done; and you shall know their names when you please. A mans *wife* also of good *account*, was in great peril of miscarrying by what was done when Mr. *Thompson* was apprehended; where his *Lordship* was present to break the *Ice*, it being but the first *attempt*, and strutted it to and from the *Meeting-Door* with his staff, like a *half-Pike* upon his shoulder;

Only construe the Greek in the Margin, for I hear you are a *Schollar*, and that may acquaint you, who is the *Christian*, whether they who do, or the

ὁ μὲν γὰρ τὸν πτωχὸν χειρίαν ἰδεὶν
ἔει, τὸ δὲ μισέειν χειρίαν Πλάτῳ
καίφα τὸ τίλμαμα. Athan. p. 833.

Diffiners who suffer such Barbarous *usages*. I proceed,

We

We must remember we are all this while about the *Invective*, or *Presentment*, or as You call it, the *Address*; that which follows thereof (and I shall now dispatch it with all expedition ;) is reducible to one of these *five Heads*.

First, A severe *Reflection* upon some of the *Meeters*, for having been engaged in the late *Wars*; and if so, they went out young; and so it may be imputed to some youthful inconsiderate *Heats*, rather than unto any deliberate *choice*; But how few are they?

Apparent raro mantes in gurgite vasto.

Not one of the *Preachers* were concerned therein, (though some in the Neighbourhood, who have have now *Pluralities* were as zealous *Chaplains* as any in the *Army* :) and of the *Hearers*, those few who were, have all, I think, in some sort expiated that *guilt*, by their *zeal* in promoting the happy *Restoration* of his most Sacred *Majesty*; nor do I think them one in an *hundred*. Others (who can better calculate the number) say, not one in *five-hundred*: But the memory hereof was expung'd by an *Act of Oblivion*; and I am sorry to see it so often reviv'd: I fear they wish not well to our *peace*, who blurt it forth where-ever they come, and make that the *ground* of their now *prosecution* of *Dissenters*; who are *persons* for the generality not concern'd therein, unless as sufferers for their *Loyalty*, either *themselves* immediately, or in their nearest *Relations*.

Witness Mr. *Quarrels*, whose Son is a Ringleading Informer, and himself has 4 or 5 Churches; not to mention others nearer by far to their own Doors, within and without the City.

2ly. A *Repetition* of former hard words, with the addition of others of a like stamp, such as *Impostors*, *Seducers*, *Distysl*, and *turbulent Spirits*, *Breakers and contemners of all Laws*, and civil *Sanctions*; *unreasonable Men*, that *despise Dominions and speak evil of Dignities*; for *Scripture* can be used when they think fit to abuse it. But all this is confuted both by the *Innocence* of their *Lives* and *Doctrines*, and what is already written; nor need more be added.

3dly, An *irritating* the *Magistrates* to *exterminate them* thence, and to *suppress Conventicles*, and that for weighty *Reasons*: But it is not yet declared whither they shall be sent; time enough to discourse of that, when by the *prosecution* of the 35 of *Elizabeth* (for all *Engines* are on work to effect their *Ruin*,) they shall be enforce'd.

enforc'd, who will not choose to be hang'd, very fairly to forswear the Land. The method propos'd is, by putting the Laws in due Execution; what a DUE Executioner the Informer is, may be read in a large Margin some pages before. I think these violences there mentioned will not easily be reconcil'd to a due Execution of the Laws; nor may better Usages be expected from the other TRUE-HEARTS, if as big as their Words, who talk of hanging the Phanaticks for 2 d. a Dozen. The reasons are, *Left our City (they say) become a Sanctuary, &c.* This minds me of a forward Zealot for the Holy League, (whereof more anon) *Faques d' Humieres*, who first mov'd in favour thereof, and exhorted the Inhabitants of *Peronne*, not to suffer their City to be made the nest and Resceptacle of Heresy; there is something in this analogy, and lest our Religion and Government be prostituted, and the Authority of the Nation trampled under foot; fine words, but in this case insignificant; for they attempt nothing against the establish'd Worship, but only desire to enjoy their own; their respect also to the Magistrate is already asserted. The consequents of all this, they judge, are these two; the one necessary which is confusion, the other contingent and that is Popery: Which must introduce (they add) remediless disorder and confusion, no doubt! were your crafty insinuations true; as certain as when the sky does fall we shall catch Larks, and the supposition as likely. I have read of as holy a man as any of the TRUE-HEARTS, and I think as Learned, who was bold to acquaint the Emperor, that the alone way to obtain a settlement was to inawlg a toleration: A charitable countenance and a Christian toleration of ten dissipates their strength, whom

Non aliâ ratione quæ turbata sunt componi, quæ divulsa sunt coerceri possunt, nisi unusquisque nullâ servitutis astrictus necessitate integrum habeat utendi arbitrium. Bilar. Fol. 8a. c.

rougher opposition fortifies, was the observation of the most excellent Prince. And may at last for ought we know (that's warily said) mould the vulgar into a willingness to imbrace Popery; this is very pleasant; some whom you and I know, are of opinion; that of the TRUE-HEARTS more than one, are angry at Popery for no other reason (if at all) but because it is a Religion: But let that pass for a small conceit. No wise man can well think that the fundamental principles of Nonconformity (which I take to be, the sufficiency of the Scriptures to direct us in Worship, as well as Doctrine; and that all additions therein, beyond the determination of circumstances, such as time place, &c. necessary to all other actions, are prohibi-

ted

ted by the second Commandment) should dispose the people to receive Popery. But some are, as good at long *seribes* as I am at a long *parentesis*; nor shall I presume to guess what may be the crotchet of this moulding of the vulgar; when it shall please the TRUE-HEARTS further to explain themselves, they may then expect a further Answer.

4ly, A Triumphant rejoycing at the ready and active concurrence of the Justices with the Bishop, to prevent the growing mischiefs: I think Sir, you have heard, as well as we, that the Bishop has been pleas'd to inveigh against the Justices for their too great Backwardness; nor had they, it's believ'd, concur'd so far, as now they have, had they not been buff'd into a compliance; nor will it be easy, I think, to find another Mayor of that softly humour, who will suffer himself to be out-brav'd by the Bishop, on the Bench; nor the Justices nos'd by the Bishops man; and the Bench reproached for a DOVER-COURT: That there is a force offered to their proper inclinations, is evident; because the hand removed that held them to that Bend, they presently ply back to their former Rectitude; when the Bishop, and that bold Informer are come for London, all in a trice is compos'd at Bristol.

Here now is the time for the Chorus to strike in; for though the other hammered out this excellent piece, yet the Jurors by subscribing have made it their own; and they all with one voice (at least the Informer would have us believe so) sing a magnificent, they rejoyce and bless God for his Lordships great care and diligence, (one would think these TRUE-HEARTS were very devout) and indefatigable endeavours, (he has been busie enough of all Conscience) and hope that he will not be discourag'd from his honourable and worthy undertakings: Honourable and Worthy? this makes me remember, that he has more than once own'd himself an Informer upon the Bench; and also those (α' *Επισκόποις πρέπει*) things which become a Bishop; which the Father saith, (or rather the Synod of Alexandria) are mildness and devotion, not threats and terrours; and also that of another Bishop, and Father of the Church, If a legal force were offered (*istiusmodi jus*) to bring men to the true faith, the Episcopal Authority (so I

Εκ φόβου καὶ ἀπειλῶν, ἢ ἐξ εὐσεβείας καὶ ἀπικρίας α' *Επισκόποις πρέπει τιμωμένοι*. As the sticklers for Arius are upbraided; Ath. p. 723.

think Doctrina may be here interpreted) would oppose it self, and exclaim; He is the God of the Universe he needs not an

Deus univ[er]satis est obsequio non egit necessario non requirit coactam confessionem.
Hilar. Fol. 82. c. 6.

Confidimus enim Majestati ejus qui tam contemptum sui ulcisci potest quam servorum suorum labores & injurias : Lact. L. 5. c. 21.

unavoidable observance; he requires not an enforce'd confession; the wrath of man worketh not the praise of God; and that of another Father, an excellent person; We desire not that any should be enforce'd whether he will or no to worship God, the Creator of all (velint nolint colat aliquis invitus) nor are offended if any refuse to Worship, for we rely on the Majesty of Heaven, who is as well able to revenge the contempt of himself; as the pains and sufferings of his Servants.

gly, Which is the last, their resolute *Ingagement* : Is this a time of the day to be at that *Lock*? This I shall transcribe *verbatim*, for in so solemn a thing I must not vary a *Syllable*. And *we do hereby ingage in the name of our selves and all other, the Loyal Citizens, Burgeses and Inhabitants of this City, That we are and shall be ready to Sacrifice our lives and fortunes with you, in the defence of his Majesties Person, Crown and Dignity, and the established Laws*. This seems to make a *distinction*, as if some *Citizens, Burgeses and Inhabitants* were not *Loyal*; which all are presum'd to be until the contrary be prov'd : These words also, *are and shall be ready*, had others spoke them, might have minded the *Deputy-Lieutenants* to examine what *Arms* they keep; especially, if it be remembred, what *Language* has drop'd both from these, and other *TRUE-HEARTS*, in ordinary *Discourse*, too ill to be here inserted; this mention of *lives and fortunes*, minds me moreover, that I have read the same in the *Holy-League*; and the *Sacrificing* of them looks like throwing out the *Gantlet*, were there any who would enter the *Lists* : And though the *Ingagement* in gross carries an innocent *Face*; yet, if well considered, by their conjoyning, with his *MAJESTIES PERSON, CROWN, AND DIGNITY, THE ESTABLISHED LAWS*, and remembring what *Laws* they are so zealous about, they seem to imply, That should our *Sovereign* with his *Parliament* in *wisdom* think fit to alter any *penal Law*, (such particularly as relate to *Dissenters*, they should be no longer ingag'd to be faithful to the *Crown*; and this exactly accords with the *Holy-League*, wherein they ingag'd to preserve *Henry the third of France and his Successors in the Sure, Honour, Authority, &c.* but with *Limitations* of their own, *ACCORDING TO ARTICLES TO BE PRESENTED*; and, let men talk what they will about

about the *Covenant* (in which you know I am not concern'd) and compare it with the *League* ; for my part I believe there is a much greater resemblance and *analogy*, betwixt the *League* and this *Engagement* ; for they agree exactly in their *Ends* ; that was, and this is evidently design'd to *exterminate* and root out all those who shall but dare *dissent* from the *established Worship* : But, blessed be *God*, we live under a most *wise* and *gracious* *Sovereign* ; and all things are in *peace* and quiet; and we trust and pray, that they will so continue ; nor can I imagine what *reason* there was for this *unseasonable* piece of *Gallantry*, unseasonable sure, if it deserve no worse a *reflection* ; for what (at least on the *Dissenters* part) can compel them into any *Disorder*, so long as they keep them thus firm unto that old and safe *Rule* (which I hope the *TRUE-HEARTS* will also learn :) Religion is to be defended not by *killing*, but by *opling*; not by *Rage* but by *patience* : And if the *Sacrificing* above, may be interpreted into this sense, I should in this subscribe together with the *Furors*.

Davila, ubi supra.

Defendenda est Religio non occidendo sed moriendo, non servitiâ sed patientiâ; Last. L. 3. c. 20.

And now, Sir, give me leave once more to apply my *Discourse* unto these worshipful *Gallants*: You *Gentlemen of the Jury*, stand together, and hear your *Charge* : Is this fardle do you think a fit present for an *Epiphany Sessions* ? whereof some are pieces of counterfeited *stuff*, very false, and of a false *dye*, that hold not colour ; others are mixed, wherein a very little *truth*, like some threads of Silk intrwoven with Woosted, give a *gloss*, though a pitiful, unto an abundance of *untruth*, or at least trifling, idle, and of no use in the during World ; all sullied with a deal of foul *Language*, as with so much *dirt*. I hope you will consider of it, and take what I have written for a *Friendly* and *Civil Admonition* (should you obtain a sight thereof) : But if any shall vex, and put themselves into a *fret*, (as some of you they say are *heady* enough, and apt to be *outrageous*,) let me advise you, that before you give vent to that *Rage*, and let it fly in the face of any, you will in cool blood duly weigh what is written, and whether it may not be thought a necessary *defence*, and that you your selves have so *rendred it* ; and whether considering the *virulency* of your *Address*, you have not been treated with *modesty* and much *tenderness* : Besides I hope, that it may prove a *warning* to you (possibly to some others) that for the future, you more carefully *examine*, what you thus

subscribe and *swear*; for I charitably think, that as to the greatest number, there was no great *malice* in the *Case*; and have you not more *Reason* to be offended with those who surprized you into this *Indiscretion*, than with me who would detect the *Abuse*, that you be not made the *Authors* of that *Mischief*, you never designed? there were always some men (fit for desperate *enterprizes*) who being plung'd into the *Mire* themselves, do make it their *Business* to allure others into the same *puddle*; And is not this a wise *piece* of work do you think? or have you been well us'd to be made the *Instruments* of such mens *Villanies*? and that you must, not only urge on the *Bishop* to a further prosecution of your own *Relations*, *Friends*, and innocent and peaceable *Neighbours* who needs no *Spurs*; and permit such a pernicious and dangerous *presentment* to be exhibited to the *Bench*, without any regard to the *Honour* and *safety* of the *City*, whereof you are, and which you say you *represent*; But also by appealing, first to the *Burgesses* for the *City*, and by them to the *High Court of Parliament* (as is the acknowledg'd import of the last *Section*) have oblig'd others to rake into this *Kennel*, lay your pitiful *sardle* open, and expose your *Imprudences* to publick view: For my part I have, I protest, no *Animosity* against any of you *all*; nor have I the least against the *Composer* thereof himself: But *truth* and *Innocence* must be vindicated. And with that *protestation*, I bid you *Farewell*:

At length Sir, I suppose you are heartily glad, as well as I, that we are arriv'd to this *period*; for I am very sensible that you cannot but be tyred with this tedious *story*; and that I have indeed offered you no small *Indignity*, in refuting those little *suggestions*, whose *vanity* was discernable to your piercing *Eye* at the first *blush*; I have nothing more to add but to beg your *excuse* for having been so long already, and to subscribe my self, *Yours, &c.*

Postscript.

Since the writing hereof, I have received a fuller *account*, both of the *Arts* us'd in shuffling together that pack of *furors*, and also a *Copy* of another, the very next *Presentment*, of a different *Hue* from what is here examin'd; both which I have subjoin'd entirely as they came to *hand*, without any *alteration* or *remark*. *Vale.*

SIR,

I Did expect that the Report of the *Grand Jurors Presentment* exhibited to the Court last *Epiphany*-Sessions, would (if it reach'd your Ears) fill you with Wonder, since it did at first (before the intrigue was examin'd) most of the Inhabitants: That a City celebrated throughout the Kingdom for its good Government, and the civility of the Citizens, should by those that pretend to represent the state thereof, be so traduced. I could wish the Scandal had never pass'd beyond the Gates, and that the obloquy and Reproach fastned upon the City by that Address had not, (as I hear it has) spread it self over the whole Nation. It's my intention by this to you, to give you some account (in order to the vindication of the City and your own satisfaction) how this *Jury* and *Presentment* was contrived and brought together; that the spiteful Machinations of a few ill-men, may not affix a perpetual ignominy upon the Inhabitants of that place, for which I have so deserved a respect; And therefore that I may render you a more perfect account, how this ill-favour'd thing had its production, it will be necessary to trace it from its first causes and original; You have doubtless heard of the severity with which such as in some things dissent from the publick Establishments, in point of Religious Worship, have been prosecuted since the coming of the Bishop to the City (which was about *Michaelmas* last); and how much an *Attorney*, who about that time turn'd *Informer*, hath contributed to the disquiet of the City, and their vexation. This pragmatik *Informer* is the chief (if not the alone) contriver of that *Invektive*, whose endeavours have been restless ever since he undertook that Province, to set all hands on work he could possible influence or prevail upon, to further and promote that wicked Design he had resolved on; which was (as it hath been given out) to ruin and undo the innocent and peaceable Dissenters (that being the only crime which with any colour of truth their most implacable Adversaries can charge upon them.) And therefore he well knowing of what advantage to his purposes it would be, to have a *Grand Jury* pack'd together that might mostly consist of such as were his Confidants, and of the same inclinations towards their Neighbours as himself; he prevails so far in his Design, that all on a sudden the Warrant issued out by the under-Sheriff to summon a *Jury* for that Sessions as had been usual (and which was delivered to the Bayliff *Itinerant*, and the persons there-

in

in named, accordingly summoned) was remanded from the Bayliff; divers of those formerly warned, rased out, and the most violent and fierce persons against the Dissenters in the whole City, inserted in their room: such some of them were, as can hardly hear the mention of any that differ'd from them, without a great deal of Raillery and bad language; Dogs, Rogues, Villains, Rebels, and such like compellations were the civility with which they used to treat them; and these are the well-bred-Gentlemen who were intended by this informing *Attorney*, to countenance the Character he meant to bestow on the City of *Bristol*, and the Dissenters therein; And so few were there to be found of this sanguine complexion throughout that populous City, that one who had served on the *Jury* at the Sessions immediately before, must now again be taken in to compleat the number; who might have been excused, and the Court for that Reason was contented; but the Foreman inform'd them, that he was now willing to serve: So well did these Gentlemen understand one anothers minds, and the design they were to bring about before they came there. And its further remarkable, that this very fellow had given out before, that now there would be a *Grand-Jury* that should do the *Phanaticks* work, first take away their Estates, and then lay them in Jail. The *Jurors* being thus combined, and packed together; the informing *Attorney* was always with them, as if he had been one of their number: and besides, he and those violent persons I before mentioned had also their private Clubs, and after almost three months continuance together (for so long doth the Sessions mostly continue here) the *Presentment* is brought forth by the Midwifery and assistance of the *Attorney*. And now Sir, I dare say you will cease to wonder at what they pretended, since nothing less could be expected from persons so qualified, and by such Artifice brought together; And I cannot believe any rational man will make an estimate of the City, from what is said in the *Invective*; I assure you, it deserves no such Character, neither are there any disturbances therein, but what are of this *Informers*, and his confidants making; and that you may be satisfied that the state of things there is quite otherwise than is therein represented, I herewith send you a Copy of the *Presentment* of the *Grand-Jurors*, the very next Sessions following, which consisted of persons indifferently chosen, and of as much conscience and loyalty, and of as considerable quality and interest as any of the former; and not chargeable

able for deserting the publick Worship, which will seem as a full refutation of the former *Presentment*, and also dismiss me for giving you any further trouble, more than to tell you that I am,

Sir, Yours, &c.

To the Right Worshipful *Ralph Olliffe* Esquire, Mayor,
and the Worshipful the Aldermen, his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the City and County of the City of *Bristol*.

The humble Petition and Present ment of the Grand Inquest for the Body of the City and County of the City aforesaid, at the General Sessions of the Peace begun decimo tertio die April. Anno Regni Regis Carol. secundi Dei Gratia, &c. nunc vicessimo septimo.

Right worshipful,
and worshipful, }

VVhat greater Temporal Blessing can a City enjoy than to be in the peaceable and quiet possession of its Rights and Priviledges under the regiment and discipline of wholsome Laws and Constitutions, and under the care and conduct of loyal, diligent, and prudent Magistrates? And what greater Evidence can there be that this City is under the enjoyment of this Blessing, than the peaceable posture of Affairs in General; and also your peaceable sitting in this place, upon these great and solemn Occasions? executing the Laws, not to the gratification of the Humours and passions of men; but according to the dictates of Right Reason, administering Justice impartially with that prudence and moderation, that are both the preservatives of Power, and requisite qualifications in the right administration thereof. The consideration hereof (*Right Worshipful and Worshipful*) doth make us account it our bounden duty to embrace the present opportunity you have been pleased to put into our hands, to render you our most sincere and hearty thanks, humbly praying the favourable acceptance thereof, and your indefatigable and unwea-

ried

ried endeavours in continuing the peace, and promoting the happiness, welfare, and prosperity of this City, the Government whereof you are intrusted with. And although we will not herein presume to prescribe unto your Worships; yet we humbly crave leave to offer to your consideration the words of a late Reverend Bishop of this Realm delivered in a Sermon, and preach'd before the King, and published by his Majesties special Command, (*viz.*) *Whatever Disputes have been raised concerning the lawfulness of punishing men for their dissenting conscience in matters of Religion: yet never any man questioned the lawfulness of punishing men for their prophaneness and contempt of all Religion (such men as renounce Conscience, cannot pretend that they suffer for it); and certainly this Vice doth upon many accounts deserve the greatest severities of Laws, as being in its own nature destructive of Government and the peace of all humane Societies, besides the mischiefs consequent upon it from Divine Vengeance.*

*Abraham Edwards
Thomas Weare
George Morgan
David Dorveal
Robert Hook
William Woodward.*

*Abraham Barns
John Holister
Francis Little
William Weaver
William Ball*

*Samuel Price
Thomas Paxston
Thomas Warren
James Longman
John Gray Junior.*

